

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 AMMAN 02008 021035Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 SS-15 SSO-00 INR-10
INRE-00 /053 W

-----087134 021038Z /13/53

O R 011820Z MAR 78 ZZK RHFRAAB
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO 58MAS RAMSTEIN AB GE NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5263

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 2008

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 3. CORRECTED)

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (ATHERTON, ALFRED L. JR.)
SUBJECT: AIRCRAFT CLEARANCE

REF: 58MAS 011540Z MAR 78

1. NON CLEARANCE DIRECT FLIGHT TO JORDAN (REFTEL) BASED ON
PAST DIRECT REQUEST FROM ME TO CINC JAF BIN SHAKER FOR SIMILAR
CLEARANCE REQUEST DECEMBER 1977 FOR DIRECT FLIGHT AMMAN CAIRO
VIA ISRAEL FOR ATHERTON TO ATTEND OPENING MEETING OF CAIRO
CONFERENCE. BIN SHAKER REPLY WAS "PLEASE DO NOT ASK US TO DO
THIS. WE WILL PROVIDE JET AIRCRAFT FOR ATHERTON AND PARTY
TO TAKE HIM TO CAIRO VIA SYRIA AT GOJ EXPENSE", WHICH HE DID.

2. RE-RAISING ISSUE WILL IN MY JUDGEMENT RESULT IN SAME
ANSWER. IN FACT, HOWEVER, BIN SHAKER CURRENTLY OUTSIDE JORDAN
AND HIS SUBORDINATES HAVE LESS FLEXIBILITY IN ANY EVENT TO
PERMIT SUCH A FLIGHT. KINGS HUSSEIN MIGHT, BUT HE TOO IS AWAY
AND I DO NOT BELIEVE WE SHOULD PURSUE POINT WITH HIM IN VIEW
OF FACT HE MIGHT AGAIN FEEL CONSTRAINED TO OFFER LOCAL JET,
AN ACTION WHICH I BELIEVE WE SHOULD ALSO AVOID.

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3. THERE ARE COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS FROM AMMAN TO RIYADH
ON MARCH 5 IF AIRCRAFT COULD ARRANGE TO MEET IN RIYADH.
HAVE YOU INVESTIGATED TEL AVIV, CAIRO, SAUDI ARABIA,
JORDAN ALTERNATIVE ROUTING? IF LANDING CYPRUS PRESENTS
PROBLEM HAVE YOU EXAMINED POSSIBILITY OF NOT LANDING
BUT REFILING WHILE STILL AIRBORNE FOR AMMAN?

PICKERING

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NNN

Message Attributes

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